**[INSERT NEWSLETTER HEADER PROVIDED IF APPLICABLE]**

**National Minority Donor Awareness Month: Say “yes” to donation and share your decision.**

August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month. **[INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME]** joins Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network and the donation and transplantation community to share the facts about organ, eye and tissue donation and encourage Illinois and Indiana residents to say “yes” to donation.

About 60% of more than 105,000 adults and children waiting for life-saving organ transplants in the United States—including more than 5,000 in Illinois and Indiana—are people of color. Black and Latino communities are disproportionately represented because they are at higher risk of suffering from multiple health conditions like chronic kidney disease, diabetes, heart disease, and other conditions that can lead to organ failure and the need for an organ transplant.

* While donated organs are not matched with recipients according to race or ethnicity, compatible blood types and tissue markers – critical qualities for donor and recipient matching – are more likely to be found among members of the same ethnicity.
* The chance of long-term survival for transplant recipients may be greater if the donor and recipient share a similar genetic background.

You likely know someone whose life has been saved or enhanced thanks to the generous gift of donation. Perhaps you or someone you know had surgery to repair a torn ligament or tendon. You might know someone who was on dialysis and received a kidney transplant. You may also know that the need for organ donors is especially critical: A person in need of a life-saving organ is added to the national waiting list every 7.5 minutes and many spend years waiting.

A greater diversity of registered donors can increase access to transplantation for those waiting for a second chance at life. Joining the donor registry takes less than two minutes. Learn the facts about donation and register your decision today at [giftofhope.org](http://www.giftofhope.org).

When you share facts about donation and encourage others to join the donor registry, you play a part in saving lives. Together let’s make a difference for others throughout the month of August!